

President Clinton and the administration have indicated their concern over the issue of corruption and clearly communicated that progress needs to be swift. These concerns are clearly laid out in a joint statement from the United States-Ukraine Binational Commission.

Mr. Chairman, with the facts in mind, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the Fox amendment and commend Ukraine for its contributions to Europe. As President Clinton said at the close of the first session of the United States-Ukraine Binational Commission.

The United States values its partnership with Ukraine and believes that we cannot have a successful, undivided, democratic Europe, without a successful, democratic, progressive Ukraine.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. All time has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX].

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Chairman, my amendment authorizes U.S. citizen employees to adjudicate nationality abroad and to adjudicate immigrant and nonimmigrant visas. The amendment requires that these U.S. citizen employees: First, successfully complete a program of training essentially equivalent to the training that a consular officer who is a member of the Foreign Service would receive; and second, be certified by an appropriate State Department official to be qualified to perform consular functions.

I am concerned that the amendment may be interpreted to allow students, interns, part-time employees, or short-term contract employees to handle the important function of adjudicating nationality and immigrant and nonimmigrant visas. Because of the steady increase in visa and document fraud, the security of these functions requires that they be performed by a specialized corps of professional, full-time, experienced U.S. citizen employees.

Due to security and fraud issues, the amendment should not be interpreted to mean that students, interns, part-time employees, or short-term employees—with the exception of retired Foreign Service Officers returning to perform consular services or the spouses of Foreign Service Officers being hired to perform consular services—may adjudicate nationality, immigrant, and nonimmigrant visa, and other consular functions. It is my understanding that Mr. SMITH of Texas agrees with this statement.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Engel amendment on Albania. Albania suffered greatly under the misguided rule of its previous Government and needs international support to get back on the path to democracy.

Albania endured many harsh years of totalitarian rule and isolation. It was the last country in Eastern Europe to throw off the yoke of communism and open its borders to the world. It still struggles today.

Albania is the poorest nation in Europe. Matters worsened when high-risk pyramid investment schemes collapsed, robbing tens of thousands of Albanians of their life savings. The result has been mass chaos and anarchy. The Government fell and demonstrations and unrest turned to open rebellion.

Today, the rebellion has been quieted by an international peacekeeping force deployed by

the United Nations. A coalition government that includes elements from both the former government and its opposition has been formed to get the country back on track. This new government has promised to hold elections for President and Parliament at the end of this month.

The international community, spearheaded by the Red Cross, has committed humanitarian aid to help Albanians get back on their feet and get on with their lives.

The Engel amendment directs the United States to encourage and support the new unity government and urge it to guarantee human rights and free and fair elections. In addition, the amendment commends the U.S. military and diplomatic personnel who evacuated U.S. citizens from the country during violent uproar. Finally, the amendment commends our negotiators.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Engel amendment because restoring stability to Albania is vital to our national interests in this region. We cannot allow chaos and unrest to overtake Albania again because it would have a devastating effect on the already delicate situation in this turbulent corner of the world.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE), having assumed the chair, Mr. EWING, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1757), to consolidate international affairs agencies, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and related agencies for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LIMITATION ON FURTHER AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1757, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 1757 in the Committee of the Whole, pursuant to House Resolution 159, no further amendments to the bill shall be in order except:

First, amendments en bloc offered by the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations pursuant to the order of the House of June 5, 1997; and, second, the following amendment which shall be debatable under the 5-minute rule: Amendment by the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] regarding authorization levels.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object, but let me just ask a question or two for clarification.

There will be under this unanimous consent request only two amendments permitted?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HAMILTON. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, one of those amendments would be the en bloc offered by the gentleman as the chairman of the committee, and that is pursuant to the order of the House of June 5, 1997. That means that would be done with the concurrence of the ranking minority member?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

Mr. HAMILTON. And then the second amendment that would be permitted under the 5-minute rule without restriction on time would be the amendment of the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] with respect to authorization levels?

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, that is correct.

Mr. HAMILTON. And no other amendments will be offered?

Mr. GILMAN. And no other amendments, and we hope to be finished early tomorrow morning.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, the Chair will now put the question on the motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

RELATING TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REUNIFICATION OF THE CITY OF JERUSALEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 60.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York [Mr. GILMAN] that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 60, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 406, nays 17, answered "present" 1, not 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 176]

YEAS—406

Abercrombie	Barrett (NE)	Bliley
Ackerman	Barrett (WI)	Blunt
Aderholt	Bartlett	Boehlert
Allen	Barton	Boehner
Andrews	Bass	Bonilla
Archer	Becerra	Bono
Armey	Bentsen	Borski
Bachus	Bereuter	Boswell
Baesler	Berman	Boucher
Baker	Berry	Boyd
Baldacci	Bilbray	Brady
Ballenger	Bilirakis	Brown (CA)
Barcia	Bishop	Brown (FL)
Barr	Blagojevich	Brown (OH)